

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This RCE Amendment has been prepared in response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2008 regarding the above-identified U.S. Patent Application. While there is some confusion created by language in the Examiner's Action, it appears that the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3 as being anticipated by each of U.S. Patent No. 7,218,405 to Aschenbrenner et al., and US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0190045 of Matsuhara et al., and has rejected claims 2 and 4 as being unpatentable over the proposed combination of these same two references.

The confusion referred to above comes about because the Examiner's Action, which does not *directly* reject any claim as being *anticipated* by Matsuhara et al., on page 3, paragraph 5, refers to the Matsuhara et al. reference in a kind of oblique way by comparing its asserted, effective content to that of Aschenbrenner et al. To deal with this confusion, and for the purpose of commenting upon the December 2008 Action, applicants will respond by assuming that the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3 as being anticipated independently by each of the two cited and applied references, while rejecting claims 2 and 4, as stated above, on the basis of a proposed combination of the two cited and applied references.

Turning now to substance, and to what is proposed and urged by applicants in this RCE Amendment, while applicants do not comprehend, after carefully reading the Examiner's Action and the contents of the two cited and applied prior art references, how the Examiner could find in these references adequate support to make the rejections which he has made, and while applicants therefore believe that their claims *as presented before the entry of the present*

Amendment are clearly distinguishable in all respects from, and are patentable over, the cited and applied references, they nevertheless propose herein certain very modest revisions in the claims. These simple revisions are believed to make even more plainly evident why and how it is that their claimed invention is patentably distinguishable in all respects over the references.

In particular, all claims have been currently amended to point out that the method and system of applicants' invention is PDF-exclusive in nature in respect of all of its features and behaviors, and especially, that its performances focus on detecting, and independently pipelining for separate processing, PDF image-only file data -- *consciously separating this image-only PDF data from other PDF file data*. Only PDF data is involved in the practice of the invention. These revisions make abundantly clear that the invention has nothing to do with other kinds of printing/imaging data handling.

Relative to these claim amendments, companion, "exclusivity" language additions have been made appropriately on pages 1, 2 and 3 in the specification to furnish technical antecedent basis for the added claim terminology.

No new matter has been introduced anywhere.

According to applicants' claimed invention, querying is performed with respect exclusively to a PDF data stream which is supplied to the input side of what may be thought of as a querying environment (14, 14a, 14b in Fig. 1) wherein detection takes place to identify, exclusively, the presence, if any in such a data stream, of a PDF image-only file. This querying activity occurs with regard to such a data stream which is en route to a printer. The querying environment includes, in addition to an input side which receives such a data stream, a pair of

independent output sides, or routes, on which different output PDF-only data flows in specifically different ways depending upon the outcome of a data-stream querying event. If querying activity detects the presence of a PDF image-only file in an examined PDF data stream, then the data in that file is directed exclusively via one only of the querying environment output sides to what is referred to in applicants' claims as a PDF image-only pipeline processing path which extends between the querying environment and a printer. PDF files that are other than PDF image-only files are directed exclusively to the other querying-environment output side for the subsequent performance of conventional PDF handling en route to a printer.

There is simply nothing in either of the cited and applied references which performs such PDF-exclusive actions. More specifically, there is no discussion in either reference, nor any illustrations in their drawings, relating to the detection and isolation of a PDF image-only file which becomes separated and specially routed (pipelined) for independent processing on its way to a printer.

Aschenbrenner et al. makes absolutely no reference to PDF image-only handling including PDF pipelines. As the text in this reference clearly points out, the Aschenbrenner et al. methodology focuses attention on object-level rendering control based upon the use of so-called tagged, secondary resources. The proposed method enables a data stream to include specific, object-level source calibration parameters, such as a color profile parameter, whereby, for example, a downstream rendering process can, where appropriate, avail itself of and utilize this data-stream-carried profile information in an object-specific, or object-level, manner, rather than utilizing what the reference refers to as a single, job-level profile.

If one takes a careful look at Fig. 1 in this reference, there one will see that, progressing from a print application, PDF files flow unsegregated, and in a *single flow path* 114, to a pre-processor 116, and from pre-processor 116, flow unsegregated, and in a *single flow path* 118, to a print server 120. This single-path routing for PDF file data shown in Fig. 1 is expressed clearly in the Aschenbrenner et al. specification at column 9, lines 37-40, inclusive:

“The pre-processor 116 creates resource separation and page independence so that the P/S or PDF file can be transformed into an AFP (MO:DCA).TM. datastream 118, which is then passed to the AFP print server 120.”

“Resource separation” and “page independence” here refer to the preparation of print objects, as appropriate, with related, object-associated processing-control information -- i.e., object-level tagged information.

It is thus very clear that within this Fig. 1-illustrated travel route just described for the handling of PDF file data in accordance with this reference, nothing illustrated in, and described therein with respect to, the flow of PDF data involves any *exclusive* handling of PDF data, and certainly no *exclusive* detection of PDF image-the only file data for segregation and flow by way of a dedicated PDF pipeline for independent processing.

Fig. 5 in the Aschenbrenner et al. reference, to which the Examiner makes some reference, when also carefully examined, reveals that what is shown in this figure is the behavior of print server 120 in Fig. 1. In accordance with what is shown in Fig. 5, while two routes are illustrated for the handling and rendering of so-called objects, a splitting which occurs in block 510 to direct different objects along different routes for rendering *performs a separation based solely upon a consideration regarding whether, with respect to a particular object, a so-called*

color file is mapped as a secondary resource, in accordance with the central practice of the Aschenbrenner et al. methodology. There is absolutely no detection that takes place in block 510 which looks exclusively for the presence of PDF image-only file data for the purpose of performing a separation of that data for pipeline processing in an independent fashion. In point of fact, the operation of block 510 in Aschenbrenner et al. is completely blind to the presence or absence of PDF image-only data as distinguished from any other kind of PDF data, or for that matter, as distinguished from any other particular form of data.

A detailed description of what appears in Fig. 5 in the Aschenbrenner et al. reference appears beginning at column 13, line 64, and extends to column 14, line 14.

It is thus the case that there is plainly nothing about the Aschenbrenner et al. reference which reads upon the cooperative structural and methodologic descriptions of applicants' invention presented in applicants' claims.

The very same lack of a teaching or suggesting relationship to applicants' claimed invention exists with respect to the Matsuhara et al. reference. Only *a single flow path* is illustrated in this reference for the flow of PDF data, with this flow being supplied to RIP 263, and therefrom, *also in a single flow path*, to print controller MEMORY 261. This single-flow-path condition is clearly illustrated in Fig. 4 in the Matsuhara et al. reference.

Thus, it is very clear that the concept of looking for and detecting, *in an exclusive PDF processing environment, exclusively PDF image-only data*, and then *exclusively* segregating that data for flow into a dedicated pipeline for independent processing, *is found only in the description and disclosure of applicants' invention in the present patent application.*

Accordingly, all of applicants' claims, which have been, as mentioned above, modestly currently amended herein to place emphasis on the PDF exclusiveness of the system and methodology of the invention with respect to the world of PDF file data, set forth an invention which is distinguishable in every respect from anything shown or suggested by the two cited and applied prior art references. Therefore, for all of the above reasons, applicants' claims, as they are now presented in this application, on the basis of entry of the present Amendment, are clearly in conditions for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully solicited.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and objections state in the Office action, and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Applicant(s) hereby request a three-month Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). A PTOForm 2038 Credit Card authorization in the amount of 1,920.00 is enclosed to pay the RCE fee and the requisite extension fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to

charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No.
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Customer Number

55428

Respectfully Submitted,

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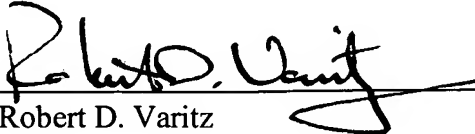
I hereby certify that the attached RCE, PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN SUPPORT OF RCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and a PTO-2038 credit card authorization form in the amount of \$1,920.00 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

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